

REMARKS

It is respectfully requested that this application be reconsidered in view of the following remarks and that all of the claims remaining be allowed.

1. Group Election

In the Office Action, the Examiner required the following restriction under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-8, drawn to a method of increasing neural stem cell number.
- II. Claims 9-13, drawn to a method of identifying a gene.
- III. Claims 14-21, drawn to a method of treating or ameliorating.

In response, Applicants elect Group I without traverse.

2. Species Election

The Office Action further requires a species election. The species are neurodegenerative diseases with conditions selected from brain injury, Alzheimer's Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Huntington's Disease, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, and Parkinson's Disease.

In response, Applicants elect brain injury without traverse. Claims 14-16 and 18-21 are readable upon the elected species. However, Applicants wish to point out that these claims belong to an unelected group.

Should the Examiner have any questions, a telephone call to the undersigned attorney for the Applicants would be appreciated.

Early examination of this application on the merits is earnestly solicited.

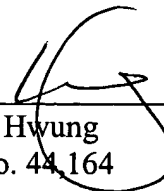
Applicant : Samuel Weiss and Tetsuro Shingo
Serial No. : 10/084,671
Filed : February 28, 2002
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Attorney's Docket No.: 16601-005001

Enclosed is a \$1,005.00 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 5/7/2004



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